

MICHIGAN LEgwork

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

SEPTEMBER 2007

No Worker Left Behind Program Takes Off

THE NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND PROGRAM is officially up and running! On August 1, Governor Jennifer Granholm launched No Worker Left Behind (NWLB), calling it a critical step in her comprehensive plan to transform Michigan's economy. Speaking to all 28 Michigan community college presidents, state job training leaders, and local businesses and workers, the governor detailed the program which emphasizes training that links to good-paying jobs that exist in today's economy.

"To compete and succeed in this global economy, Michigan workers must acquire the complex skills needed in cutting-edge industries that will fuel future economic growth," Granholm said. "No Worker Left Behind will make Michigan more attractive to job-creating businesses, and it will get workers and families who have been hurt by globalization back on the path to success."

By reorganizing and augmenting federal funds currently used for job training, NWLB will provide up to two years of free tuition at any Michigan community college, university, or other approved training program for qualifying participants. Participants must earn a certification or degree needed in a high-demand occupation or gain the entrepreneurial skills needed to start their own businesses.

"When we match workers who have lost their jobs with vacancies in high-demand sectors and tailored training programs at community colleges, we give Michigan workers a competitive advantage and give our economy a real boost," Granholm said.

Partners in the No Worker Left Behind initiative include Michigan's 28 community colleges, the Michigan Community Colleges Association, the Michigan Works! Association and 25 Michigan Works! Agencies, the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, four-year colleges and universities, and licensed proprietary schools.

"By 2012, Michigan will have a shortage of more than 300,000 skilled workers," said DLEG Director Keith W. Cooley. "We know that 70 percent of the fastest growing jobs by 2010 will require a postsecondary degree."

Training in high-demand occupations vary from region to region and include advanced manufacturing, health care, biotechnology, and renewable energy, as well as other growing sectors.

Eligible participants include any person who is currently unemployed, who has received a notice or termination or layoff from employment, or whose family income is \$40,000 or less. Participants must be at least 18 years old, must not have graduated from high school



Gov. Granholm shares the good news about No Worker Left Behind, as Director Keith Cooley, Oneupweb founder and owner Lisa Wehr, and Deputy Director Andy Levin look on.

within the last two years, and must not be full-time college students. They have three years to sign up for the program.

One Traverse City area entrepreneur was on hand to talk about her experiences as a small business owner. Lisa Wehr of Oneupweb, an online marketing and search engine firm that has been identified as one of the "50 Companies to Watch in Michigan" by the Edward Lowe Foundation, explained her company's skill and job needs and described the difficulty finding qualified workers.

"To compete and succeed in this global economy, we need to attract and retain workers with an entirely new skill set," Wehr said. "We actively support the Governor's efforts to help Michigan workers

Continued on Page 8

IN THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 2) Director's Message | 7) We All Scream |
| 3) Take a Stand | 12) On the Move |
| 5) Prevailing Wage Forum | 15) Letters & Emails |



Director Cooley enjoys a light moment during his No Worker Left Behind presentation to the State Board of Education.

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“When You Come to a Fork in the Road, Take it ...”

Former baseball player Yogi Berra is probably as well-known for malapropism as he is for his accomplishments on the ball field. The more I think about this particular “Yogi-ism,” however, the more it speaks to me.

We are definitely at a crossroads in Michigan. We have too many people out of work, too few people getting proper training for available jobs, too little recognition of the requirement for lifelong learning, and too much of a “let the other person do it” attitude.

Lt. Governor John Cherry’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth reported last year that a high school diploma will not be enough to launch a successful career. For Michigan to grow into a competitor in the new economy, lifelong learning must become an ingrained reality for all.

The report went on to say that Michigan’s residents, businesses, and governments can **move forward** to a future of prosperity and growth fueled by the knowledge and skills of the nation’s best-educated population. Or, they can **drift backward** to a future characterized by ever-diminishing economic opportunity, decaying cities, and population flight — a stagnant backwater in a dynamic world economy.

To compete and succeed in this new world economy, we must move forward. We must have an expectation that we’ll get people trained. The need for skilled workers in Michigan is immediate and is growing, and is absolutely essential to Michigan’s economic future and its efforts to attract new business and industry.

In her State of the State address, Governor Granholm talked about her vision for meeting this need. It was a vision of helping displaced — and soon-to-be displaced — workers learn new skills for a new career.

Now, that vision is a reality. On August 1, Deputy Director Andy Levin and I accompanied the Governor to Traverse City, where she announced the official launch of No Worker Left Behind. Since then I have traveled around the state spreading the good news and explaining the details of the program.

Governor Granholm’s plan will help more than 100,000 workers over the next three to four years by providing up to two years free tuition at any Michigan community college or other approved training program, and allowing unemployed or underemployed workers to receive needed training in high demand skills while receiving unemployment benefits.

To qualify for the NWLB program, these workers will need to take a skills assessment test administered by our partners at the Michigan Works! agencies. Qualifying workers pursue a certificate or degree in a high-demand occupation, emerging industry, or entrepreneurship program.

As you can imagine, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Daily, we hear incredible stories about people who are willing to make the complicated commitment of their time and energy to juggle their jobs, their families and going back to school. With very little effort to publicize the initiative, an amazingly large number of people are contacting us about No Worker Left Behind.

Through No Worker Left Behind, we are taking that fork in the road. We are not sitting still, drifting into a stagnant backwater.

Instead, we are choosing to move forward, toward a bright future for our children, our grandchildren, and their children. We can solve the skilled worker shortage in Michigan and train the workforce of tomorrow. We can, together, change the attitude of the young and old to include lifelong learning. We can make sure that No Worker is Left Behind.

Sincerely,

Keith W. Cooley
Director, Department of Labor & Economic Growth

MIOSHA Sponsors Take a Stand Day, August 15, 2007

By Connie O'Neill, Director, MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) held its third annual **"Take a Stand Day,"** in August. MIOSHA dedicated more than 125 professional staff to visit Michigan high-hazard industries targeted by the MIOSHA Strategic Plan. A total of 226 requests for service were received for "Take a Stand Day."

MIOSHA safety and health professionals—including compliance staff, outreach consultants, managers, and supervisors—all went into the field to provide safety and health consultations for companies who participated in this event. **There were no CITATIONS or FINES for participating workplaces.** Participants agreed to correct all serious conditions.

WJRT (TV12) in Flint sent a reporter to **Universal Lift Parts** to cover the site's "Take a Stand Day" consultation. **Connie Ayres**, the Owner, accompanied **Linda Long**, MIOSHA Safety Consultant on the walk around of the facility. Numerous safety items were noted and Linda provided an explanation of how to correct the hazards. The story generated great coverage for the MIOSHA program.

Here's a recap of some of the safety visits that were conducted:

- ❖ At **HPS Fabrication**, a manufacturer of heat treat furnaces in **Wyandotte**, MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division Safety Inspector **Charlie Collier** conducted a hazard survey and a training session on hazard communication.
- ❖ Safety Inspector **James Kivell** and IH Supervisor **Sundari Murthy**, MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division, conducted a hazard survey at the **City of Detroit, Municipal Repair Garage**. Garage Supervisor **Eugene Massey** was very eager to learn about and fix all the hazards and invited the entire shop to participate in the survey.
- ❖ The employees at **REB Construction Services, Inc. Auburn Hills**, participated in the hazard survey conducted by Safety Inspector **Jacklynn Gray**, MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division. All employees walked around with Jacklynn to learn more about hazards and MIOSHA standards. The **Construction Association of Michigan**, a MIOSHA alliance partner, recommended participation by REB.

Continued on Next Page... (Pg 4)



MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division Safety Inspector Charlie Collier (left) is pictured with Roberta and Robert Lang, Owners of HPS Fabrication in Wyandotte. Charlie enjoyed the opportunity to befriend the owner's pets, Ben and Jerry.



The repair team at the City of Detroit Municipal Repair Garage stands with Safety Inspector James Kivell (far right).



Employees of REB Construction Services, Inc. in Auburn Hills

MIOSHA Sponsors Take a Stand Day, August 15, 2007 (Continued)



Safety Inspector Joe LeBlanc, MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division, stands with manager Lara Bramer at Crystal Lake Marina in Beulah.

- ❖ Safety Inspector **Joe LeBlanc**, MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division, conducted a hazard survey at Crystal Lake Marina in Beulah. Joe provided general safety assistance to the family-owned company which has six employees, and commended them for having their forklift operators trained and permitted.
- ❖ Safety Inspector **Kevin Thomas** and Health Inspector **Harvey Johnson**, MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division, conducted a hazard survey at Burroughs Inc. in Kalamazoo. The company employs about 200 employees and builds museum quality cabinets. Kevin conducted a MIOSHA inspection at the facility and they requested a “Take a Stand Day” consultation as a way of checking up on themselves.

All of the employers that participated in “Take a Stand Day” have expressed appreciation and demonstrated cooperation to assure their workers a safe and healthy workplace.



Health Inspector Harvey Johnson, MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division, (center), conducted noise assessment during his visit to Burroughs, Inc. in Kalamazoo.

Wage & Hour Attracts 100 to Prevailing Wage Forums

The Wage & Hour Division held four forums around the state this summer to discuss Michigan's prevailing wage law and to explain to public school districts, as well as community colleges and public universities, their responsibilities under this law.

The four-hour sessions were led by Wage & Hour Administrator Jack Finn and Rick Gartner, a state assistant attorney general. Forums were held in Traverse City, Grand Rapids, Flint and Detroit.

At the forums, Finn explained the various responsibilities of contracting agents who oversee the construction projects and hire contractors to do the work. He also described how the Division enforces the law and responds to complaints about possible law violations. Gartner discussed some past and recent litigation involving prevailing wage.

Prevailing wage is an established rate for wages and fringe benefits paid to construction workers employed on state-funded projects, such as school buildings and road construction.

The Wage & Hour Division administers Michigan's Prevailing Wage Act and sets prevailing wage and fringe benefit rates throughout the state based on collective bargaining agreements that the division obtains from labor organizations. Prevailing wage rates cover about 130 construction worker classifications in 83 counties.

The forums were well attended by school and union representatives, attracting about 100 attendees to the four sessions. For those school districts that could not attend the forums, the Division is planning to make a videotape of the presentation available to them.

The forums are part of the Division's overall effort to reinvigorate the state's Prevailing Wage program and to communicate more to those covered by the law about their legal responsibilities. DLEG Director Keith Cooley is also talking about prevailing wage and appeared on a recent "Job Show" cable program with Pat Devlin, CEO of the Michigan State Building Trades Council. Director Cooley also spoke about prevailing wage at the Council's legislative conference in April.



Jack Finn, W&H administrator, talks about the prevailing wage responsibilities of contracting agents and contractors.



Presenters at the Prevailing Wage forum in Detroit (l-r): Rick Gartner, assistant attorney general, and Jack Finn, administrator, Wage & Hour Division. Jennifer Fields, a manager with W&H and Troy Smith, a W&H analyst, handled logistics for the Detroit meeting and helped in answering questions from attendees.

ASED Holds Fall Conference

The Alliance of State Employees with Disabilities held its Fall Conference on September 19 at the State Library of Michigan. The theme of this year's conference was "Economics of Disability in a Changing Workplace."

Disability Caucus Chair Sen. John J. Gleason and Office of the State Employer (OSE) Director Scott Bowen gave opening remarks. Dr. Alice Dreger, Associate Professor of Clinical Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern University, delivered the keynote speech, "The Cost of 'Medicalizing' Disability in the Workplace." Duncan Wyeth, Director of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, Pat Cannon, Director of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, and Lisa Gigliotti and Ed Rodgers of the State Office of Administrative Hearings & Rules (SOAHR), moderated a panel on the employee perspective.

Three DLEG employees, Alison A. Rodgers, Office of Media Technology, Dick (R.C.) Smith, SOAHR, and Pat Cannon were among the nominees of the 2007 Disability Advocate of the Year Award. Toni M. McFarland, State Disability Manager and Accommodation Coordinator with the OSE, was the award recipient.

A little over 100 people attended the conference, an increase over last year's attendance. Len Sawisch, conference committee member and Manager of Communications and Customer Technology for the Department of Civil Service, said, "This conference is a significant step toward putting the issues of state employees with disabilities back on the radar of state leadership."



DLEG employees Myrtle Gregg-LaFay (left) and Twyla Niedfeldt (right) enjoy a light moment before registration starts with Registrar Katie Garner from Civil Service.

News From the Front Lines

Ken Davis is a tax team supervisor with the Tax Office at the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) and a staff sergeant in the Michigan Army National Guard. Currently, Ken is on active duty in Iraq and recently sent an email to friends at the agency about some of his experiences in Iraq over the past five months. Here are some excerpts from that email:

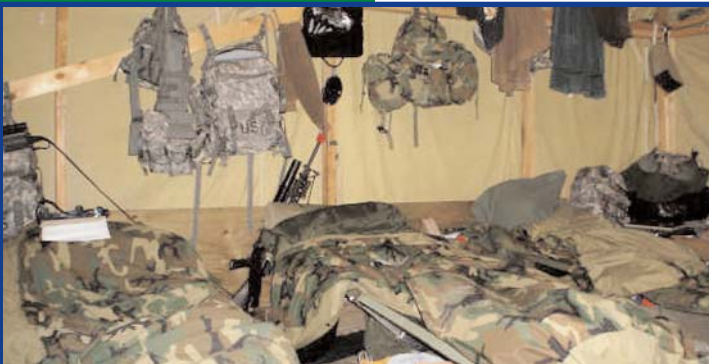
"I have been making a lot of different transitions during my stay in Iraq. I am currently the 'truck master.' The job consists of me sitting at a desk and monitoring two radios. I also have about five reports to send up to higher command. This is a very high profile and very visible job. I work from 10:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. and monitor the communication of the convoys.

"I live in a 'can' structure. It is frame surrounded with tin. You can hear someone whispering outside through the walls. Trying to sleep in your can can be difficult at times. I live next door to the firing line.

"Also, the wall that separates us from the insurgents is a half mile away. Therefore, during the day, we practice firing on the firing line, and at night we are actually firing at the enemy. Then, there are the helicopters. They fly 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The helicopters are so low, you can look the pilot in the eyes, and they fly in pairs. When they go overhead, the whole building shakes. Trying to sleep at night requires some adjusting."



UIA tax team supervisor Ken Davis stands in front of some of the gun trucks that are located on his base in Iraq. Ken has been stationed in Iraq with his National Guard unit for the past five months.



Be it ever so humble...this was "home" for Ken Davis and his fellow troopers while they were in training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Ken noted that, "if you lay on your back and stretched out both your arms you would hit the guy on either side of you."



There is very little elbow room for Ken Davis and his comrades as they are packed on to this C-130 transport aircraft.

We All Scream for Ice Cream!

**By Crystal Galloway, UIE, Saginaw RICC, and
Marianne Holst, Manager, Grand Rapids RICC**

Staffs at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA) three Remote Initial Claims Centers (RICC) were treated to ice socials in July for reaching their telephone, document and adjudication goals during the most recent peak period.

No less than Liza Estlund Olson, UIA acting director, and Chris Peretto, director of Customer Service, were on hand at the Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Detroit RICCs to handle scooping duties at the socials. Staff at the centers took pleasure in having upper management treat them as the customers and dip scoops of ice cream for them to savor.



Nakita McEwen, an analyst at the Grand Rapids RICC (photo left) digs into a container of ice cream to serve a co-worker.



With scoopers at the ready Liza Estlund Olson, acting UIA director; Chris Peretto, Customer Service Director; and Robert Zaborowski, Saginaw RICC director, are ready to serve ice cream to staff at the Saginaw RICC.



UIA Customer Service Director Chris Peretto smiles as Marianne Holst, RICC manager, helps with scooping duties.



Kim Mier, an unemployment insurance examiner (UIE) at the Saginaw RICC, tops off UIE Melissa Conlay's ice cream with a cherry.

No Worker Left Behind Program Takes Off (Continued)

(Continued from Page 1.)

acquire the complex skills needed in this new economy. The program should enhance our ongoing recruiting and internal training initiatives.”

Since the Traverse City event, the Governor has made announcements in Kalamazoo and Escanaba, and appeared on CNN’s “Lou Dobbs Tonight” show to talk about NWLB. To view the episode, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/nwlb/0,1607,7-24244600-175877--,00.html>. *

The Governor also announced the launch of the NWLB website, www.michigan.gov/nwlb. Job seekers can review NWLB qualifications, learn how to get started and find out about training opportunities and job openings.

“In Michigan, it’s time for our people to stop getting left behind in this tough, global economy and start getting trained,” the Governor said. “That’s what No Worker Left Behind is all about.”

**Please note an error in reporting. The report indicated the maximum tuition assistance amount at \$10,000 per year. The correct amount is \$5,000 per year for two years for a maximum amount of \$10,000 per person.*



Some members of the audience respond enthusiastically to the good news of No Worker Left Behind.

OFIS Hits the Airwaves on Predatory Lending



Kirt Gundry, Director of the Mortgage Examination and Investigation Section of the Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS), answers a question from Mark Bashore, WKAR Radio news producer and host. Mark interviewed Kirt on the predatory lending and foreclosure situation in Michigan. The interview will air on WKAR on September 27.

Keep Your Camera Handy!

DLEG’s Media & Public Relations office would like to remind you that if you or your office is participating in a work-related event, to please take photos and share them with us. We are always on the lookout for pictures that show the good work our department is doing.

Electronic photos can be emailed to mediainfo@michigan.gov. Printed photos can be sent to Kathy Fagan via interdepartmental mail. Photos will be returned once they’re scanned.





Sherry Gordon, Michigan Commission for the Blind West Region Manager, paddles a kayak while her Leader Dog, Company, keeps the lookout position at the bow.

MCB Staff, Clients, and Company Take to the Lake

By Susan Turney, MCB

Sherry Gordon and Leanne Ford were among a group of about 20 guides and 14 blind and visually impaired paddlers at the annual Kayak for Light event July 7 at Ramona Park on Long Lake in Portage, near Kalamazoo. Sherry's Leader Dog, Company, took the lookout position at the bow (a.k.a. the front) of the kayak while Sherry paddled, as shown in the photo. Although Company can dogpaddle, Sherry is the one who is much better at using a kayak paddle! For more information about Kayak for Light, a part of Ski for Light, visit the organization's website at www.msfl.org.



FORE!!

UIA Annual Golf Outing
Open to all State Employees,
State Retirees & Their Friends

Friday, September 28, 2007
Rammler Golf Course

38180 Utica Rd at Schoenherr, N. of 16 Mile, Sterling Heights
(see course info at www.rammlergolf.com)

Hosted by the MESC Golf League — our 39th Annual Outing!

Get a foursome together for a day of fun & friendly competition
(We can help with team assignments, if you need)
Tee-times starting at 8:00 am off two nines

18 holes, cart, hotdog at the turn, dinner, beer and prizes included
\$55 League Members, \$65 Non-Members
Checks payable to: MESC Golf League, call for mailing info

Deadline is Thursday, September 20th
Reserve your spot, now!!

Contact Dorothy Day, 313-790-1171, DayDorothyE@michigan.gov
or Dave Synk, 313-868-0150, SynkDavidJ@michigan.gov

Professional Activities

MIOSHA's Bill Shane Receives *Associate Safety Professional* (ASP) Certification

Congratulations to Bill Shane, a Senior Safety Consultant in the MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division's Onsite Program, who has completed all requirements for certification as an Associate Safety Professional (ASP). Bill passed the Safety Fundamentals examination

on July 22, 2007. This extensive exam is administered by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and Bill has set a goal to achieve the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) designation. Congratulations Bill, and keep studying!



Bill Shane, MIOSHA Senior Safety Consultant

OFIS Commissioner Addresses Insurance Concerns for Tornado Victims

In the wake of the tornado that ripped through Fenton last month, Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) Commissioner Linda Watters participated in a town hall meeting in Fenton recently to address resident concerns.

Approximately 30 area residents came to the meeting, which was organized by Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing) and attended by Fenton Mayor Sue Osborn, Fenton City Manager Mike Senyko and representatives from the insurance industry.

The meeting gave Fenton residents an opportunity to ask questions and to be offered assistance in navigating insurance issues in the wake of the tornado.

"As the City of Fenton and its residents begin to regroup and rebuild, many have voiced nervous concerns regarding insurance reimbursement," Sen. Gleason said. "To help residents address those concerns, we're bringing in the state's highest ranking

insurance official to answer questions and offer assistance in navigating insurance issues that they may face in the coming months."

Commissioner Watters noted that representatives from State Farm, Allstate, Frankenmuth Mutual and Westfield Insurance were available answer insurance-related questions firsthand.

"Our priority at OFIS is to protect the consumers of Michigan," Commissioner Watters said. "During disasters such as this, it's important for consumers to understand exactly what their insurance policies contain, and I think all the residents who attended this meeting gained some valuable information."



Commissioner Watters listens to a Fenton resident at the town hall meeting.

Michigan Celebrates 17th ADA Anniversary

Michigan is celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act this summer. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm issued a special tribute on July 26 in celebration of the 17th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was enacted on July 26, 1990. There were many activities around the state in honor of the ADA anniversary to celebrate its achievements, including events hosted by several local and national disability organizations. The National Coalition for Disability Rights Road to Freedom Bus Tour journeyed through Michigan August 12-14 for events in Lansing, Flint, and Marquette, and Michigan Commission for the Blind Director Patrick Cannon was a featured speaker at the

Lansing event at Ferris Park. The Road to Freedom bus is visiting more than 80 locations nationwide on its way to the nation's capital. Photographs of the struggle for disability rights which have been featured at the Smithsonian Institute are the centerpiece of the traveling exhibit.



Michigan Commission for the Blind Director Pat Cannon is interviewed by the Road to Freedom Project at Ferris Park in Lansing.

UIA's Anthony "Tony" Billegas Passes Away in August

By Dave Synk, manager, Oakland Multi Service Center

Staff at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Oakman Multi-Service Center in Detroit, recently bid a fond farewell to Anthony Villegas, known to everyone as Tony. On August 2, Tony passed away during his sleep. He had just celebrated his 75th birthday in May.

Tony began working for the MESC in 1992 as the janitor in the Southgate branch office. Darlene Reeser, his first manager, remembered how he always had a fresh pot of coffee ready when she arrived each morning. He transferred to the Multi-Service Center in 1999, working as a laborer until he went on a medical leave. Center manager Dave Synk and supervisor Greg Keyes said Tony always came to work with a big thermos of coffee from home, and both had to admit he made better coffee than either of them.

Tony is survived by his wife Patricia and a son Tony Jr. He will be sadly missed by everyone.



Anthony Billegas died on August 2 at age 75 and with 15 years of service at UIA.

ACT Now to Stop a Suicide

Did you know that 70% of people who commit suicide tell someone about their plans, or give warning signs?

Have you heard someone you care about say:

- ❖ My family would be better off without me.
- ❖ There's nothing I can do to make it better.
- ❖ You'll be sorry when I'm gone.
- ❖ Life isn't worth living.

Family and friends taking ACTION [acknowledge, care, and seek treatment] can very often make all the difference in the world for the person considering suicide. The Employee Service Program encourages you to ACT now to stop a suicide: Acknowledge your concern, take it seriously and be willing to listen; Care, take the initiative and voice your concern; and assist in seeking Treatment immediately for the individual.

The Employee Service Program website is found at www.michigan.gov/esp has a suicide risk questionnaire in an article "Suicide—Is Someone You Know at Risk?" Employee Service Program counselors are available to assist you. Call 517-373-7630 [or 800-521-1377] in Lansing, or 313-456-4020 in Detroit to speak with a counselor. The National HopeLine Network is available 24 hours 7 days a week at 800-SUI-CIDE [for TTY call 800-448-1833]. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, you should go immediately to the nearest emergency room. Your local police can be contacted at 911 for assistance if needed.

Many times a death by suicide can be prevented. Most people who attempt suicide do not wish to die, but at the moment consider death to be the only alternative to their current suffering. Seventy percent of people who commit suicide tell someone about their plans or give warning signs. Two-thirds of those who die by suicide were dealing with serious depression, and about fifty percent had measurable amounts of alcohol in their system. Professional assistance provided to people contemplating suicide can give them a sense of hope that there are other alternatives to their crisis.

Bryant Earns Her Master's Degree

By Marianne S. Holst, manager, GR RICC

The Unemployment Insurance Agency is developing a well educated workforce. In May, another UIA staff member earned her master's degree.

Ronisha Bryant, an unemployment insurance examiner at the Grand Rapids Remote Initial Claims Center, received her master's of science in management from Cornerstone University, and she's not done yet.

"My goal is to obtain a position in HR with the state or another company," Ronisha said.

However, the goal has been placed on hold until 2008 because Ronisha began taking classes toward a degree in business administration and leadership (MBA) in August.



Ronisha Bryant, a UIE at the Grand Rapids RICC, earned her master's degree in management this May, but starts work on an MBA in August.



On the Move

Dale Beachnau named HR Director at the Department of Treasury

Congratulations to Dale Beachnau, Human Resources, who is starting a new position as Director of Human Resources at the Department of Treasury effective September 10. Dale has served as DLEG's Deputy Director of Human Resources since 2003. Prior to that, he served as HR

Director for the Department of Career Development and as Personnel Director for a psychiatric hospital and two correctional facilities. In all, Dale has worked in Human Resources for more than 20 years.

A farewell party was held in the Lansing office on September 5, where friends and co-workers came to bid Dale farewell. Good luck, Dale — you will be missed!



Dale Beachnau at his farewell party.

Nova Govan Leaves for USDA

By Crystal Galloway, UIE, Saginaw RICC

Nova Govan, an unemployment insurance examiner at the Saginaw Remote Initial Claims Center, left the Unemployment Insurance Agency on August 15 for a new position with the federal government. Nova will be joining the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Indianapolis as a docket clerk with USDA's National Appeals Division.



Nova Govan has left UIA and the Saginaw RICC for a post with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Indiana.

Priscilla Swan Earns Her Stripes

By Deborah Moore, analyst, Detroit RICC

Priscilla Swan has earned her stripes! In June she was promoted to 1st Sergeant with the Michigan Army National Guard. Swan is an unemployment insurance examiner (UIE) at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA) Detroit Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC). She has served in the military for over 21 years and is currently stationed with the 464th Quartermaster Company in Lapeer.

Priscilla says her new post will give her the opportunity to mentor new recruits and ensure that training is conducted with motivation and to the unit's high standards.

She joined the Unemployment Insurance Agency in 2002 but started her military career in 1985, when she enlisted in the U.S. Army. Once her Army tour was completed, she transferred to the Army Reserves and, finally, to the National Guard. In her years with the military, she has had tours of duty in the states and overseas, including a deployment to Iraq, which she completed in November 2005.

Priscilla wants to continue her military career and says, "I still have a lot to offer the military, and my job is not done yet."



Priscilla Swan, a UIE at UIA's Detroit RICC, was promoted recently to 1st Sgt. with Michigan's Army National Guard.



Christina Harrison, a secretary in UIA's Executive Office, and Tony Anthony exchanged wedding vows on July 14 after originally meeting online two years ago.

UIA's Christine Harrison Finds Love and Marriage Online

By Norm Isotalo, DLEG communications specialist

Christina Harrison definitely has a new age romance that has bloomed into marriage.

Christina, an executive secretary in Unemployment Insurance Agency's Executive Office, was married on Saturday, July 14 to the man she met online at a website for singles.

"We met two years ago at a site for men and women who are living a happy life being single," Christina said. "At first, we just chatted online and developed a friendship. From there, we started talking by phone. Then we decided to meet."

For Christina, it was love at first sight, and then four months after their initial online chats, she and Lionel (Tony) Anthony decided to become serious about their relationship. And on July 14, their relationship moved to the next step, and they were married in Las Vegas.

There's an old song that says, "love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage." Perhaps, that should be updated to "love and marriage go together like a modem and a mouse."



Joseph Burrel, a UIE at the Grand Rapids RICC, has been singing Christian music for almost his entire life and is now getting ready to launch his first solo album.

Joseph Burrel Goes Solo With Singing Career

By Marianne Holst, manager, Grand Rapids RICC

Joseph Burrel's music career has hit a high note as he has his first solo music recording project — an album entitled "Your Will," which will be issued soon.

An unemployment insurance examiner at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Grand Rapids Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC), Joe is the former lead singer for the Gospel group HIS IMAGE and was a recording artist for the Inner Court Music Group in Detroit. He has also performed annually at the Downtown Grand Rapids Festival.

Joe has sung with nationally known recording artists and Grammy Award winning singers, such as Yolanda Adams, John P. Key, Dr. Bobby Jones, the Williams Brothers, Marvin Sapp, and the Commissioned.

A singer and writer of music since he was 12 years old, Joe has also studied classical piano and music production. At 16, he founded the Muskegon Area Youth Mass Choir.

Joe attributes his interest in Christian music to his family. "I grew up in the church, and Christian music always came natural for me," he explained. "My father was a pastor. I also have four brothers who are pastors, and I assist them with music ministry whenever possible."



Wedding Bells Are Ringing!



Congratulations to Rita Henderson, a secretary with the Michigan Commission for the Blind, who married Wendell Joe Dixon on June 29

Mighty Macs Celebrate Namesake's Birthday



Showing off their Mackinac Bridge birthday cake are members of the Saginaw RICC's Mighty Mac Team (front l-r): Tracy Lopez, Diane Donaldson and Cathleen Buhr; (back, l-r): Diane Boroughf, Delphine Brown, Carole Parrish, Victoria Harris and Cheryl Davis

The Mighty Mac team at the Saginaw Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC) celebrated the 50th birthday of its namesake, the Mackinac Bridge on July 27.

The Unemployment Insurance Agency team hosted a bridge birthday party for staff at the RICC and Problem Resolution Office (PRO). The party featured a cake as well as a tray of fudge for each RICC and PRO team. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Mackinac Bridge which links Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas.

Members of Saginaw's Mighty Mac team are: manager Cathleen Buhr; lead workers Carole Parrish and Delphine Brown; and team members Diane Boroughf, Cheryl Davis, Diane Donaldson, Victoria Harris and Tracy Lopez.



To celebrate the 50th birthday of the five-mile long Mackinac Bridge, the Saginaw RICC's Mighty Mac Team honored their namesake with a cake and fudge for their co-workers.

We Get Letters ... and E-mails!

Lou Adams, District Manager of the Mid-Michigan District office of Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), received the following letter from a client:

Morbark, Inc., has just celebrated its 50th year in the manufacturing industry. We are one of the largest employers in Isabella County. We currently employ approximately 640 employees.

I am retiring at the end of the month and decided to use this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the excellent MRS has provided Morbark. I have worked with all of the State Agencies in the past 22 years. My association with Michigan Rehabilitation Services has been rewarding. The varied and unique service provided to our employees with disabilities has been beneficial in assisting them with and maintaining their jobs.

This obviously is a "win-win" situation for Morbark due to employee retention and for the employee because of the services provided by MRS. Whether it is providing personal assistance, transportation, job accommodation or job placement services, MRS is able to assist and make a difference.

In closing, I would like to personally thank MRS, Jim Garrison and your staff for continuing to benefit Morbark and our employees.

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry had nothing but praise for Wage & Hour Investigator Heather Calahan. Raymond Thibeault wrote to Director Cooley recently about the Ministry's interaction with Heather.

"While trying to settle a complaint by a previous employee, we had many contacts with Ms. Calahan. All of these were positive experiences, even when she told us we were in the wrong. Ms. Calahan returned phone calls promptly, answered questions thoroughly and was always patient, courteous, pleasant and professional. She is indeed a credit to the Wage & Hour Division of your department."

Shirley Sutton, manager of the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Problem Resolution Office in Livonia, received a note of thanks from Dr. Eric Schultz, an associate professor in the Department of Management at Eastern Michigan University. The note praised Shirley for her recent presentation about Michigan's unemployment insurance program to his graduate-level management class. This was the third such presentation Shirley has made to Dr. Schulz's Employee Benefits class. The professor said her presentation is very important

to the class, and both he and his students benefit greatly from her discussion. Professor Schulz wrote:

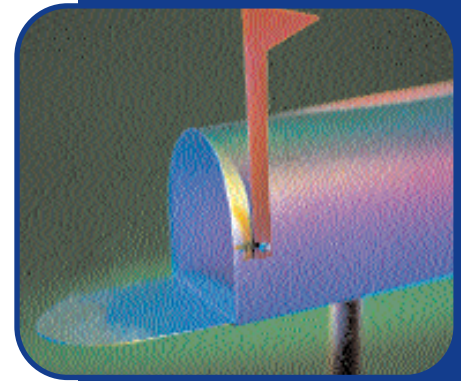
"Thank you again Shirley for lending your expertise to the benefits class. Having a speaker of your caliber and experience greatly enhances the educational quality of the EMU management students, and I am grateful to you for sharing your time with us."

Gary Holik, a rehabilitation counselor in the MRS-Saginaw office, received the following praise from a client:

In 2000 I met Gary Holik, at that time in my life I was defeated.... I felt like I would always be working at dead end jobs, worrying about my future and if I would be able to support myself completely. Gary set me up with great training and challenging programs with interesting people to learn from. Little by little my confidence built and each new job I encountered only gave me more experience and the feeling that I can be good at what I do... I thank MRS for the resources it gave me, the support it gave me, the understanding I needed these last few years and especially Gary for not letting me throw my fits and give up on myself... Where I'm at now in my life is succeeding and I just had to let you know how much Gary and your services have helped me. Thank you very much for having him there and hooking me up with a great person.

Irene Wright, site manager at the Michigan Rehabilitation Services Waterford Office, received this praise about Kelly Kruse, Intake Coordinator:

I wanted to write and acknowledge the wonderful, professional and kind experience that I encountered on 7/10/07. I spoke with Kelly and she gave me so much information and support. My son has Down Syndrome and Kelly was instrumental in helping me gain insight to help get started with work for him. I truly feel blessed to have had the opportunity to come in contact with Kelly. Thank you.



Wage & Hour's Heather Calahan is a credit to the department, according to the Loaves and Fishes Ministry in Lansing



Shirley Sutton, manager of UIA's Livonia Problem Resolution Office, received a letter for her recent presentation about unemployment insurance to a graduate-level management class